Another year is coming to a close! As you will read in this issue of Hoofprints, much has happened in the Department during the summer and fall. Our undergraduate major, Animal Sciences, continues to grow, and our students and the many clubs, academic teams and judging teams we sponsor are flourishing. In addition, it is exciting to watch our graduate student enrollment increase. Our youth and adult extension programs are operating at “high velocity”. The 3rd Dairy & Animal Science Alumni Tailgate on September 26 at the Ag Arena was a huge success—there were about 300 attendees. I received many positive comments about our Tailgate—with many suggestions about how to make the event even bigger!

I want to offer a very special thank you to Dr. Michael O’Connor, Professor of Dairy Science, for all that he has done for the Department, our students and the dairy industry! Mike is retiring at the end of December after a 30-year career in the Department.

In closing, there have been many exciting happenings in the Department. We are committed to embracing change in a way that builds on the excellence that we represent. As you appreciate, this reflects the enthusiasm and hard work of faculty, staff and students in the Department. There is a sense of excitement as we continue to pursue excellence and provide a world-class education to our students and others around the World.

Take care, and if there is anything we in the Department can help you with, please let me know (tde@psu.edu; 814-863-3665). Happy Holidays!

Terry D. Etherton, Department Head and Distinguished Professor of Animal Nutrition

Awards and Recognition
The following national awards were given at the annual ADSA/ASAS meetings: Dale Olver, Teaching Award sponsored by Land O’Lakes, Purina Feed LLC; Jud Heinrichs, Forage Award sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred; Gabriella Varga, Nutrition Professionals Award from the American Dairy Science Association; Geoffrey Zanton, Graduate Student Published Paper Award sponsored by Alltech, Inc.; Daniel Rico, 3rd place recognition for his Graduate Student poster.

Three Animal Sciences students won 2009 Internship Awards from the College’s Alumni Society: Janelle Hartzell, intern at AgChoice Farm Credit in Lewisburg, PA; Amy Miller, intern with Golden Oaks Farm in Wauconda, IL; Briana Mott, intern with Coolmore America/Ashford Stud in Versailles, KY.

Jessica Tekippe, graduate advisee of Gabriella Varga, received the $2,500 National Milk Producers Federation Dairy Leadership Scholarship.

Karen Racicot, graduate advisee of Troy Ott, received the Gusdon Memorial New Investigator Award at the annual meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology in Orlando, FL.

Dan Kniffen received the Half Century Award from the American Hereford Association during the AHA meetings in Kansas City, MO in November. The award honors breeders who have been producing and breeding Hereford cattle for over 50 years.

Larry Muller, Professor Emeritus, received a Distinguished Animal Sciences Alumni Lifetime Career Award for excellence in academia, leadership, and professional accomplishments from Purdue University.

Bill Baumgardt, former department head, also received a Lifetime Career Award from Purdue.

William Henning, Professor Emeritus, received the Extension Signal Service Award from the American Meat Science Association for lifetime achievements in meat science extension education.

Burt Staniar was featured in the June issue of the college's staff newsletter

See das.psu.edu/hoofprints for a list of our annual departmental faculty-staff award recipients.

Undergraduate Student Clubs
More than 100 members and 50 new students in the Block and Bridle Club attended the Fall Welcome Back picnic in September. Club members hosted a
Collegiate Horsemen Association at Penn State (CHAPS) takes field trips, visits clinics, attends conventions, and gets involved in community service activities. This year, members have participated in therapeutic riding, club tailgates and cookouts, barn tours, and the Taiji Horseman Clinic. In January, CHAPS will travel to Colorado State University for the American Collegiate Horseman’s Association’s (ACHA) National Convention, where members will learn about careers in the horse industry. For more information, see clubs.psu.edu/up/chaps, or add CHAPS to your Facebook profile!

At the ADSA Student Affiliate Division meetings in Montreal, the Dairy Science Club was named Outstanding Chapter for the 3rd consecutive year. Members Elizabeth Smith, Elizabeth Cloninger, Turner Swartz, and Janelle Hartzell won the dairy quiz bowl. In the undergraduate presentation contests Nathan Heim placed 2nd in production, and Ashley Harshbarger earned 3rd in dairy foods. The club also received 1st-place awards in Web site, display, and scrapbook. The club welcomed more than 20 new members. Students assisted with the Pennsylvania Junior Dairy Show and other events at the All-American in Harrisburg in September. Osteochallenge, a 5-K walk/run, raised over $650 for the National Osteoporosis Foundation. Other fall activities included the Nittany Lion Fall Classic and holiday cheese box sale. The Spring Judging Contest will take place March 20. Spring Bargain Fling is set for April 10, and Dairy Expo is on April 17. Dairy Days Cow Camp will take place May 21-23. More information is available at clubs.psu.edu/up/dairyscienceclub.

Alumni News

• Barbara Toddes, an Animal Sciences graduate, was featured in Penn State Live, the university’s online official news source. She is currently the director of the animal nutrition program at the Philadelphia Zoo.

• The prestigious Saddle & Sirloin Club recently inducted Louis “Mick” Colvin as its newest member at its Banquet and Portrait Presentation.

• H. Duane Norman, supervisory research geneticist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service Animal Improvement Programs Laboratory, is the 2009 Dairy Science Distinguished Alumnus. Norman is known for his leadership in genetic evaluation for traits of importance for the U.S. dairy industry. Norman grew up on a registered Jersey farm in Liberty, PA and was active in 4-H and FFA. As an undergraduate, he was president of Campus 4-H, vice-president of the Dairy Science Club, editor of the Dairyman, member of the dairy cattle judging team, and was named Outstanding Senior. He earned his B.S. and M.S. at Penn State and his Ph.D. in dairy breeding from Cornell.

The Stockmen’s Club annual business meeting will take place January 9, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East, with social hour at 6 p.m and dinner at 7 p.m. Dean Bruce McPheron will speak. Information about...
the election was mailed in November. Contact Jana Peters at 814-863-4198, jepeters@psu.edu for information about joining the club.

The Dairymen’s Club and Stockmen’s Club hosted the 3rd Annual Football Tailgate on September 26. The tentative date for the 2010 tailgate is November 6.

**Nittany Lion Fall Classic**
The 26th Nittany Lion Fall Classic took place on November 21 with 91 lots averaging $2,863. High seller and setting the record for high individual price was a Goldwyn choice from the 2E-95 Windy-Knoll-View Promis-ET. This choice of three ultrasound females due in March 2010 was consigned by James and Nina Burdette of Mercersburg and purchased by Timothy and Tyler Peachey, Petersburg, for $26,000. High volume buyer was James Bos from Fresno, CA. The sale was co-managed by the Penn State Dairy Science Club and Pennsylvania Holstein Association. Joseph Leslie chaired with Scott Umble assisting. Barn manager was Anthony Sharp, assisted by Aaron Stepnoski. Creedin Cornman provided guidance throughout the week. Sale staff included Horace Backus, pedigrees; Harry Bachman, auctioneer; and Chris Hill, Don Welk, and Matt Lawrence, ringmen. Ken Raney and David Lentz represented PHA and provided assistance throughout the summer and fall.

**Judging Teams**
The *Meats Judging Team* was the Reserve National Champion Meat Science Quiz Bowl Team, placing second out of 24 teams from 14 universities at the Reciprocal Meat Conference in June. Winning team members were Dustin Brown, Kristina McAllister, and Amy Shollenberger. Other team members were Allison Bardella, Mairen Fitzpatrick, Ryan Fairbairn, and Jami Willard.

The *Horse Judging Team* attended the All American Quarter Horse Congress in Columbus, OH, competing in the national contest. The team included Samantha Greives, competing in the Senior Collegiate Division. Sophomores competing in the Junior Collegiate Division were Ashley Bennett, Linsey Etz, Stephanie Larry, and Chelsie Walter. Highlights included Halter Judging: 6th place with Stephanie Larry 2nd individual; Performance Judging: 4th place with Ashley Bennett 8th individual; Oral Reasons 5th place with Linsey Etz 9th individual; and an overall team ranking of 4th place.

The *Livestock Judging Team* competed in five major contests throughout the fall and consisted of Travis Book, Shenna Kubeja, Danielle Maines, Kristina McAllister, Sally Oakes, Johanna Rohrer, Katlyn Tice, and Adam Wise. At the National Contest, Book, McAllister, Oakes, Rohrer, and Wise placed 2nd. Only the team from the University of Nebraska dropped fewer points placing classes than Penn State, and only one person in the contest dropped fewer points placing than Rohrer. The team finished 4th in sheep, with Rohrer and Book finishing 13th and 16th, respectively, in sheep. The team finished 12th overall.

**Dairy Judging Team** members Benjamin Cashell, Janelle Hartzell, Logan Horst, and Joseph Leslie placed 2nd overall and high for Jerseys at the Eastern States Expo. Leslie was 3rd high individual overall, Horst placed 6th, and Hartzell placed 7th. At the All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg the team was 3rd high overall, and Leslie was 2nd high individual. At the National Intercollegiate Contest in Madison, the team was 4th overall, 2nd in reasons, and 1st in Brown Swiss and Red and Whites. Hartzell was high reasons individual and 4th high individual overall. Horst was high individual for Ayrshires, Guernseys, and Red and Whites and was 5th high overall. A team consisting of Joshua Ebert, Elaina Rader, Rebecca Wenger, and Amy Yeiser competed at the North American Livestock Expo in Louisville and placed 5th overall, with Rader earning 3rd high individual honors.

**Comings and Goings**
- Jennifer Vallimont has joined the department as a Project Associate.
- Michael O’Connor, Professor, will retire effective December 31, 2009.
- Michelle Alterio, Administrative Support Assistant, joined the department in August, replacing Paula Morgan, who was promoted to Administrative Support Coordinator in July.
- Heather Dale left the department in July.

**Faculty News**
- Chad Dechow was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor effective July 1.
- Harold Harpster was promoted to the rank of Professor, effective July 1.
- Geoff and Sarah Zanton’s third child, Henry Thomas Zanton, was born November 9.

**Graduate Student News**
- Donna (Sage) Clark and Meghan Gerber received M.S. degrees and Karen Racicot received her Ph.D. in Animal Science in August. Sage and Karen were advised by Troy Ott; Meghan by Ann Swinker.
Suzie Reding, M.S. advisee of Jon Oatley, defended her thesis in August.

Yinglu Wang, advisee of Craig Baumrucker, defended her M.S. thesis in July.

Javier Suarez, Gustavo Lascano, and Daryl Mulfair, advisees of Jud Heinrichs, studied this summer at the University of Bologna, Italy.

Sadhat Walusimbi, advisee of Joy Pate, passed his Ph.D. candidacy exam in September.